AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3. In Figure 3, reference numbers 55 and 64 have been omitted.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-16 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 8, 13, and 16 are amended, and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Objections to Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the reference numbers 52A-52E mentioned in the specification. In response, Applicant has amended the specification to recite reference numbers 32A-32E instead of reference numbers 52A-52E. Reference numbers 32A-32E are included in Fig. 2.

Moreover, reference numbers 64 and 55 in the drawings are not represented in the specification. In response, Applicant has amended Fig. 3 to omit reference numbers 64 and 55. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Publication No. 2003/0233535 to Nunn et al. (hereinafter "Nunn"). As mentioned above, claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice, rendering this rejection with regard to claim 2 moot. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

A. Claims 1 and 3-7 are allowable.

As amended, claim 1 recites that a method for maintaining a boot order of one or more mass storage devices within a computer system comprises determining prior to attempting an initial program load of the computer system whether a configuration change to the computer system was made since a previous boot of the computer system that would effect the boot order of the mass storage devices within the computer system, wherein the configuration change comprises removing one of the one or more mass storage devices from the computer system; and in response to determining that a configuration change was made that would effect the boot order, rearranging the boot order of the mass storage devices so that the mass

storage devices are booted in the order used prior to the configuration change, wherein rearranging the boot order of the mass storage devices comprises removing an entry corresponding to the removed mass storage device from the boot order.

Nunn does not teach or suggest a method for maintaining a boot order of one or more mass storage devices within a computer system as recited by claim 1. On the contrary, Nunn describes a method for preserving a boot order selected by a user or manufacturer by determining whether one or more bootable devices have been removed from a system, and if one of the bootable devices has been removed, then storing an indicator in the entry of the boot order corresponding to the removed bootable device that indicates that the removed bootable device is dormant. This is not analogous to the method recited by claim 1 because Nunn fails to teach or suggest that the entry corresponding to the removed bootable device is removed from the boot order. Instead, as illustrated in Fig. 3b, Nunn describes that the entry corresponding to a removed bootable device remains in the boot order and is marked as dormant indicating that the removed bootable deice is not present in the system.

For at least the reasons given above, claim 1 is allowable over Nunn. Since claims 3-7 depend from claim 1 and recite further claim features, Applicant respectfully submits that Nunn does not anticipate Applicant's claimed invention as embodied in claims 3-7. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

B. Claims 8-12 are allowable.

As amended, claim 8 recites that a method for maintaining a boot order that defines the order in which a computer system attempts to perform an initial program load from one or more mass storage devices within the computer comprises determining a status associated with at least one change bit data field to determine prior to attempting to perform the initial program load whether a configuration change to the computer system was made.

Nunn does not teach or suggest a method for maintaining a boot order that defines the order in which a computer system attempts to perform an initial program load from one or more mass storage devices within the computer as recited by claim 8. In contrast, Nunn describes a method for preserving a boot order selected by a user or manufacturer by determining whether a device change is detected, without teaching or suggesting determining a status associated with at least one change bit data field to determine prior to attempting to

perform the initial program load whether a device change is detected. In fact, Nunn describes that the BIOS determines whether a device change is detected, without teaching or suggesting how the BIOS determines whether a device change is detected.

For at least the reasons given above, claim 8 is allowable over Nunn. Since claims 9-12 depend from claim 8 and recite further claim features, Applicant respectfully submits that Nunn does not anticipate Applicant's claimed invention as embodied in claims 9-12. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

C. Claims 13-16 are allowable.

As amended, claim 13 recites that a computer system operative to attempt an initial program load from one or more mass storage devices according to a defined boot order comprises a non-volatile memory storing a basic input/output system (BIOS) executable on the central processing unit, the BIOS operative to provide a facility for specifying the boot order, to determine prior to attempting an initial program load of the computer system whether a configuration change to the computer system was made since a previous boot of the computer system that would effect the boot order, wherein the configuration change comprises removing one of the one or more mass storage devices from the computer system, and, in response to determining that a configuration change was made that would effect the boot order, to rearrange the boot order of the mass storage devices so that the mass storage devices are booted in the order used prior to the configuration change, wherein the BIOS is operative to remove an entry corresponding to the removed mass storage device from the boot order to rearrange the boot order of the mass storage devices.

Nunn does not teach or suggest a computer system operative to attempt an initial program load from one or more mass storage devices according to a defined boot order as recited by claim 13. On the contrary, Nunn describes an information handling system for preserving a boot order selected by a user or manufacturer including a BIOS operative to determine whether one or more bootable devices have been removed from a system, and if one of the bootable devices has been removed, then store an indicator in the entry of the boot order corresponding to the removed bootable device that indicates that the removed bootable device is dormant. This is not analogous to the computer system recited by claim 13 because Nunn fails to teach or suggest that the entry corresponding to the removed bootable device is

removed from the boot order. Instead, as illustrated in Fig. 3b, Nunn describes that the entry corresponding to a removed bootable device remains in the boot order and is marked as dormant indicating that the removed bootable deice is not present in the system.

For at least the reasons given above, claim 13 is allowable over Nunn. Since claims 14-16 depend from claim 13 and recite further claim features, Applicant respectfully submits that Nunn does not anticipate Applicant's claimed invention as embodied in claims 14-16. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, Applicant asserts that the pending claims 1 and 3-16 are in condition for allowance. Applicant further asserts that this response addresses each and every point of the Office Action, and respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this application with claims 1 and 3-16 to allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact Applicant's attorney at 404.522.1100.

Respectfully submitted,
HOPE BALDAUFF HARTMAN, LLC

Date: March 2, 2006

Jodi L. Hartman
Reg. No. 55,251

53377
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Hope Baldauff Hartman, LLC
P.O. Box 2825
Atlanta, Georgia 30301
Telephone: 404.522.1100

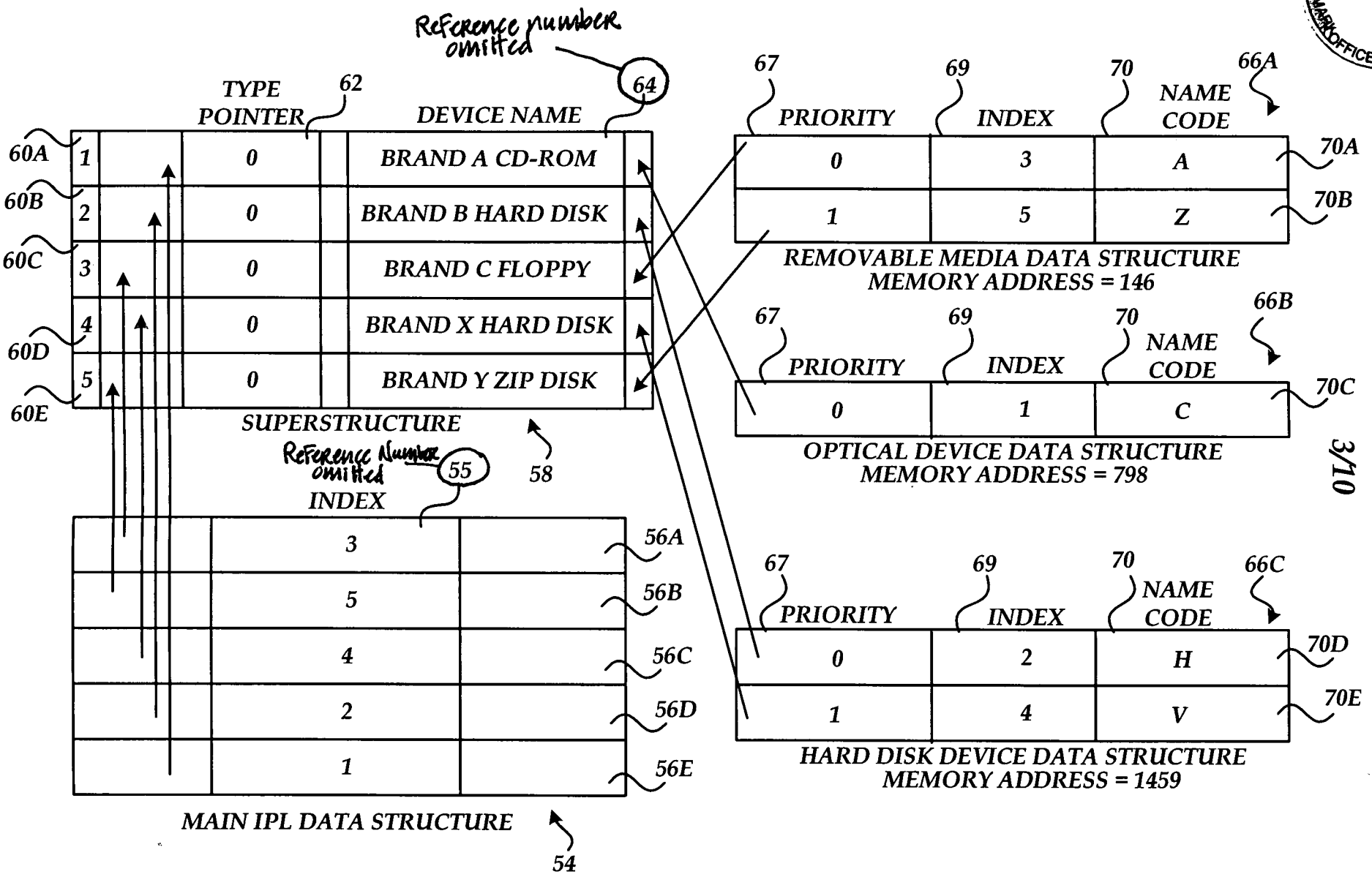

Fig.3.

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Annotated Sheet Showing Amendments